

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/989,633

Examiner

A. Dexter Tugbang

Applicant(s)

KIDACHI ET AL.

Art Unit

3729

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Response filed on 4/22/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-17.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date (attached here).
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows.

The Title has been changed to --An Apparatus for Assembling a Head Gimbal Assembly--.

NOTE: The following changes to the claims are minor and grammatical in nature to correct informalities with the language and in no way affect the scope of the claimed invention.

In Claim 9, the phrase of "the bottom layer" (line 3) as been changed to --a bottom layer--.

In Claim 10, the phrases of "a series manner" (1st occurrence on line 4 and 2nd occurrence on line 7) have been change to --the series manner--.

In Claim 15, the phrases of "a 1/n of" (line 2) and "n" (1st occurrence on line 3 and 2nd occurrence on line 6) have been deleted.

Drawings

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Figures 25-29 should each be labeled as --Related Art--. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art does not teach all of the limitations of the claimed invention including any structural equivalent or alternative to the following:

a stacking-and-joining means for stacking and joining at least predetermined portions of the load beam to the base plate, and the flexure to the load beam to make a suspension section, thereby forming a suspension series while the three-layered stacked series transferred by the first transfer means is in a state of rest;

a second transfer means for functioning on at least the base plate series of the suspension series to transfer the suspension series, in synchronization with the first transfer means; slider attaching means for attaching a slider to the flexure of the suspension series that is at rest in a predetermined position after having been transferred by the second transfer means to form a head gimbal assembly, thereby forming an HG assembly series; and

a third transfer means for functioning on at least the base plate series of the HG assembly series to transfer the HG assembly series, in synchronization with the first transfer means.

The closest prior art reference is directed to Kashiwagi (U. S. Patent 5,271,146).

Kashiwagi, which shows structural equivalents comprising:

a stacking means for stacking a base plate, a load beam, and a flexure to form a three-layered stacked series with at least a bottom layer being a base plate series, the base plate series comprising base plates formed in a series manner (read as elements 1 and 6 in Fig. 1);

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a first transfer means for transferring the three-layered stacked series intermittently in a state in which the base plate, the load beam, and the flexure mutually maintain predetermined positional relationships (read as elements 3, 3a, 5);

a slider attaching means for attaching a slider to the flexure of the suspension series that is at rest in a predetermined position after having been transferred by the second transfer means to form a head gimbal assembly (read as elements 21, 22); and

a load-bending means for bending a hinge portion formed in the head gimbal assembly of the HG assembly series by a predetermined angle while the HG assembly series is at rest in a predetermined position (read as elements 12-16).

However, Kashiwagi does not teach any structure that can be read as:

a stacking-and-joining means for stacking and joining at least predetermined portions of the load beam to the base plate, and the flexure to the load beam to make a suspension section, thereby forming a suspension series while the three-layered stacked series transferred by the first transfer means is in a state of rest;

a second transfer means for functioning on at least the base plate series of the suspension series to transfer the suspension series, in synchronization with the first transfer means; slider attaching means for attaching a slider to the flexure of the suspension series that is at rest in a predetermined position after having been transferred by the second transfer means to form a head gimbal assembly, thereby forming an HG assembly series; and

a third transfer means for functioning on at least the base plate series of the HG assembly series to transfer the HG assembly series, in synchronization with the first transfer means.

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To modify Kashiwagi by including the features above would completely destroy the arrangement of Kashiwagi.

Furthermore, Kashiwagi does not even teach that the final product being assembled as a result of the structure above is a HG assembly series.

Accordingly, Claims 9-17 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Dexter Tugbang whose telephone number is 703-308-7599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



A. Dexter Tugbang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3729

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